

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

SUB A17

1. A method for searching for information accessible through a client/server network containing a plurality of servers, comprising the steps of:

connecting to one of the plurality of servers;
receiving a graphical map of a geographic area from the server;

displaying the graphical map on a display device;
entering search criteria for locating at least one hypertext document based on a geographic position; and

receiving a search result indicating the hypertext document located in accordance with the search criteria, wherein the located hypertext document is accessible from another server different from the one server.

2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

selecting the hypertext document included in the search result; and

downloading information relating to the selected hypertext document.

3. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the hypertext document is a world wide web page and the computer network is the Internet.

4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the method is performed as an aspect of executing a program for browsing the world wide web.

5 5. The method according to Claim 4, wherein the hypertext document includes geographic position information.

6. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the hypertext document has a name based upon the geographic position information.

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SUB A27 ~~X.~~ A method for providing information through a client/server network, comprising the steps of:
15 receiving a connection request from a client;
generating a graphic map based upon a geographic area;
transmitting the graphic map to the client;
receiving search criteria for locating a world wide web page based upon a geographic position;
20 searching the world wide web in accordance with the received search criteria; and
transmitting a search result to the client.

8. The method according to Claim 7, further comprising the steps of:
25 receiving a connection request to a web page included in the search result; and

connecting the client to the selected web page.

5 9. The method according to Claim 7, wherein said searching step includes searching in accordance with longitude and latitude coordinates.

10 10. The method according to Claim 7, wherein said search step includes searching for the web page based on geographic position information included in the web page.

15 11. The method according to Claim 10, wherein the web page has a name based upon the geographic position information.

20 12. The method according to Claim 7, wherein said search step includes searching an index including position information and web page names.

25 13. The method according to Claim 7, wherein the search result includes an icon image representing the web page.

14. The method according to Claim 7, wherein the search result includes reverse-position information for determining a geographic position of the client.

SUB A37 15. A server for providing information which is accessible through a computer network, comprising:

a controller including an interface to the computer network;

a graphical mapping system responsive to said controller capable of generating a map of a geographic area for transmission through said interface;

a search engine configured to locate a hypertext document in the computer network in accordance with a request received through said interface,

wherein the request includes search criteria based upon geographic position.

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16. The server according to Claim 15, wherein the hypertext document is a world wide web page and the computer network is the Internet.

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17. The server according to Claim 15, wherein said controller is adapted to download the hypertext document located by said search engine to a client through said interface.

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18. The server according to Claim 15, wherein the hypertext document includes geographic position information.

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19. The server according to Claim 18, wherein the hypertext document has a name based upon the geographic position information.

20. The server according to Claim 15, further

comprising an index including position information and hyperlinks, wherein said search engine is further configured to locate the hypertext document by searching said index.

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¹⁹~~21.~~ The server according to Claim ¹⁴~~15~~, further comprising a coordinate database including coordinate information correlated to the map generated by said graphical mapping system.

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²⁰~~22.~~ The server according to Claim ¹⁹~~21~~, wherein the coordinate information includes latitude and longitude coordinates.

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²¹~~23.~~ The server according to Claim ²⁰~~22~~, wherein the coordinate information is updated using a Global Positioning System.

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²²~~24.~~ The server according to Claim ¹⁴~~15~~, wherein said controller is further configured to provide reverse-position information for determining a position of a client.

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SUB A4) ~~25.~~ A machine-readable storage medium including program codes, which upon execution, cause a machine to perform the steps comprising of receiving search criteria based upon a geographic position; and

searching the world wide web for a hypertext document that is accessible on a computer connected by a communication

network in accordance with the search criteria.

5 26. A hypertext document accessible via a computer network, comprising geographic position information for use by a search engine to locate the hypertext document.

10 27. The hypertext document according to Claim 26, wherein the hypertext document has a name based upon the geographic position information.

15 28. The hypertext document according to Claim 26, wherein the geographic position information includes longitude and latitude information.

29. The hypertext document according to Claim 27, wherein the hypertext document has a name based upon the longitude and latitude information.